

Peter the Great dreamed about a city that would be as unlike Moscow as possible, a modern city that would be designed to a plan. He realised his dream with the building of St Petersburg. The first stone was laid in 1703, and Peter invited architects, masons, artists and craftsmen from all over Europe to create his new capital. After Peter, a succession of empresses and emperors added to the beauty of the city, each one of them giving to it a new style – Baroque, Rococo, Classical, Russian Revival.

WE SUGGEST:

Three nights in Moscow, three nights St Petersburg. In Moscow, unmissable experiences include a visit to the **Kremlin** and the **Armoury** and weekend shopping at **Ismailovsky** market. In St Petersburg it has to be **the Hermitage** (including the Gold Rooms), and the baroque Catherine Palace, with the **amber workshops**, in Tsarskoe Selo.

“*The most beautiful street in the world.*”

Sir James Harris, English Ambassador to Russia,
describing the English Embankment, St Petersburg, 1779

